



State of Connecticut

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Testimony in Support of HB 5130

An Act Concerning the Availability of Parking on the New Haven Line

Transportation Committee

February 4, 2013

Good morning, Chairmen Maynard and Guerrera, Ranking Members Boucher and Scribner, and former fellow members of the Transportation Committee. Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 5130.

This bill would require an inventory of all available parking spaces and active parking permits at rail stations on the New Haven Line and the development of a planning process for increasing parking availability at these rail stations when parking demand exceeds parking availability.

There are several objectives:

- Eliminate confusion for commuters
- Make the process for obtaining a parking permit easier
- Cut down waiting times for permits
- Improve oversight of use and abuse of permits
- Possibly save resources by ultimately consolidating administration of station parking
- Better understand demand so that infrastructure needs can be appropriately addressed when really necessary.

The genesis of this proposal was my service in 2008 and 2009 on the Rail Station Access and Parking Task Force, as a representative of the state Public Transportation Commission. As a group, we learned that no two New Haven Line stations had the same process or policies for issuing parking permits or pricing. Waiting lists at many stations were very long, while others had no names. A permit holder in one town might remain on waiting lists in several other towns for years, many deceased people remained on waiting lists. Many lots were overcrowded every day, while others consistently had many empty spaces.

The measures proposed in this bill should improve this situation and help both the DOT and the towns in the most economically active area of our state move toward our shared objective of encouraging rail ridership by making rail station parking easier for everyone.